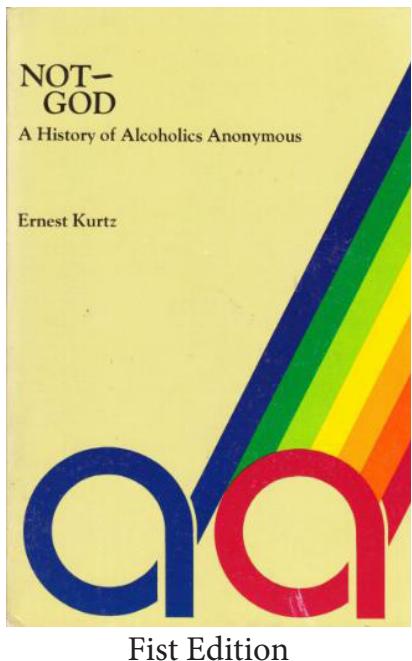


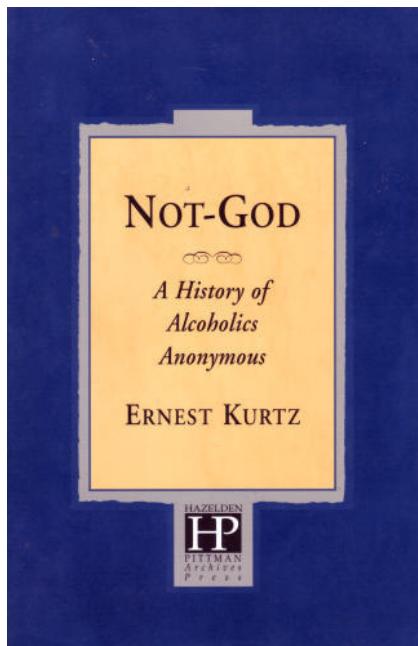
BOOK REVIEW:

NOT GOD

by Ernie Kurtz



First Edition



Second Edition, Revised

NOT GOD
A History of
Alcoholics Anonymous
(2nd Edition Revised)
 by Ernest Kurtz
 Published by Hazelden Press
 ISBN: 0894860658
 456 pages • \$17.95 Paperback
hazelden.org

This book has served as a key historical touchstone for two generations of AA readers, researchers and historians. Originally written as a doctoral thesis, it has survived the years because of the meticulous detail to detail and fairness in dealing with controversial aspects of the Fellowship's past and controversial topics in the Program's present.

The main body of the book is 230 pages, but there are over 120 pages of Appendix and additional notes, and a generous Index for easy reference when needed. Carefully researched and meticulously footnoted, this volume gives a third dimension to the flat picture that teachers and historians give the reality of alcoholism through the temperance movement, the Washingtonians, the Emmanuel Movement and the Oxford Groups.

It is also well written and accessible, without the fawning adoration of the AA pioneers, found in other writings on AA history. Dr. Kurtz received considerable cooperation with AA co-founder Bill Wilson that sets the book apart from many other investigations and biographies written after Wilson's death.

Amazon.com provides a chance for individual to respond to their purchase of the book. One buyer valued this book as "THE essential history" – but different people have different needs."

Another review said, "Like Dick B., I find Kurtz's footnotes to be a rich vein for further research. I also found refreshing Kurtz's resistance to the hagiography or iconoclasm that usually accompanies histories of Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith, AA's co-founders."

Still another buyer reported, "Good book without the mumbo jumbo that one usually finds on the subject. He tackles the question: "Is AA a cult" by describing the common characteristics of cults. A book for the thinking AA member and those interested in the background of a very influential movement that started in the USA and has spread over a large part of the developed world."

Members of online forums frequently site this book as their authority on a subject, countless sponsors have sprinkled references from its pages to newcomers and convention speakers may enlighten their audience with some judicious reference from this book.

After twenty years this author still goes back into the book to discover new depth and answer questions about the complex flow of elements that converged in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and the simplicity of the Twelve Step Programs.



online preview: <http://tinyurl.com/46y7gy>